

Karu language

Karu, one of several languages called **Baniwa** (Baniva), or in older sources *Itayaine* (*Iyaine*), is an Arawakan language spoken in Colombia, Venezuela, and Amazonas, Brazil. It forms a subgroup with the Tariana, Piapoco, Resígaro and Guarequena languages.^[3] There are 10,000 speakers.^[4]

| |
|----------------------------|
| Contents |
| Varieties |
| Grammar |
| Sounds |
| Alignment System |
| Noun Classification System |
| Negation |
| Word Order |
| Vocabulary |
| Further reading |
| References |
| External links |

Varieties

Aikhenvald (1999) considers the three main varieties to be dialects; Kaufman (1994) considers them to be distinct languages, in a group he calls "Karu". They are:

- Baniwa of Içana (*Baniua do Içana*)
- Curripaco (Kurripako, Ipeka-Tapuia-Curripako)
- Katapolítani-Moriwene-Mapanai (Catapolitani, Kadaupuritana)

Various (sub)dialects of all three are called *tapuya*, a Brazilian Portuguese and Nheengatu word for non-Tupi/non-Guarani Indigenous peoples of Brazil (from a Tupi word meaning "enemy, barbarian"). All are spoken by the Baniwa people. Ruhlen lists all as "Izaneni"; Greenberg's *Adzánani* (= Izaneni) presumably belongs here.

Ramirez (2019) gives the following classification for three separate dialect chains:^[5]

| Karu | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Baniwa | |
| Tapuya | |
| Native to | Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil |
| Ethnicity | Baniwa people |
| Native speakers | 12,000 (2001–2007) ^[1] |
| Language family | Arawakan <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Northern<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Upper Amazon<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Eastern Nawiki<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Karu |
| Dialects | Carútana-Baniwa Hohôdene (Katapolitana) Siusy-Tapuya (Seuci) Ipeka-Tapuia Curripaco (<i>Wakuénai</i>) Unhun (Katapolitana, Enhen) Waliperi Mapanai Moriwene |
| Official status | |
| Official language in | Brazil (São Gabriel da Cachoeira) |
| Language codes | |
| ISO 639-3 | Either: <div><div>bwi – Baniwa</div><div>kpc – Curripako</div></div> |
| Glottolog | bani1259 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ba |

- **Southern (Karotana):** lower Içana River, also a group living in Victorino on the Guainia River (Colombia-Venezuela border)

ni1259)

Baniwa-Curripaco^[2]

- Mapatsi-Dákeenai (Yurupari-Tapuya)
- Wadzoli-Dákeenai (Urubu-Tapuya)
- Dzawi-Mínanai (Yauareté-Tapuya)
- Adaro-Mínanai (Arara-Tapuya)
- **Central (Baniwa):** middle Içana River (from Assunção Mission to Siuci-Cachoeira) and its tributaries (Aiari River and lower Cuiari River); also around Tunuí
 - Hohódeeni
 - Walipere-Dákeenai (Siucí-Tapuya)
 - Máolieni (Cáuatapuya)
 - Mápanai (Ira-Tapuya)
 - Awádzoronai
 - Molíweni (Sucuriyú-Tapuya)
 - Kadáopoliri
 - etc.
- **Northern** (called "**Koripako**" in Brazil): upper Içana River (from Matapi upwards), Guainia River, headwaters of the Cuiari River
 - Ayáneeni (Tatú-Tapuya)
 - Payoálieni (Pacútapuya)
 - Komada-Mínanai (Ipéca-Tapuya)
 - Kapitti-Mínanai (Coatí-Tapuya)
 - etc.

Grammar

Sounds

Consonants

| | | <u>Bilabial</u> | <u>Dental</u> | <u>Alveolar</u> | <u>Retroflex</u> | <u>Palatal</u> | <u>Velar</u> | <u>Glottal</u> |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Stop</u> | plain | p | t̪ | t | | | k | |
| | aspirated | p ^h | t̪ ^h | t ^h | | | k ^h | |
| | voiced | b | | d | | | | |
| <u>Affricate</u> | plain | | | ts | | tʃ | | |
| | aspirated | | | ts ^h | | tʃ ^h | | |
| | voiced | | | dz | | dʒ | | |
| <u>Fricative</u> | plain | ɸ | | ʃ | ʂ | ç | | h |
| | voiced | β | | | ʐ | | | |
| <u>Flap</u> | voiced | | | ɺ | | | | |
| | voiceless | | | ɺ̥ | | | | |
| <u>Nasal</u> | voiced | m | | n | | ɲ | (ŋ) | |
| | voiceless | ɱ | | ɳ | | ɲ̥ | | |
| <u>Approximant</u> | | w ~ ɰ | | | | j ~ j̥ | | |

- Voiced approximant sounds can fluctuate to voiceless sounds among dialects.
- /ŋ/ only occurs when preceding a velar consonant.

Vowels

| | <u>Front</u> | <u>Back</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| <u>High</u> | i i: | |
| <u>Mid</u> | e e: | o o: |
| <u>Low</u> | a a: | |

- When occurring as short, the vowels /i e a o/ are realized as [ɪ ɛ ə ʊ]. They are also realized as both short and long nasals /ĩ ẽ ẽ õ/, [ĩ ẽ ã õ].^[6]

Alignment System

Baniwa has active–stative alignment.^[7] This means that the subject of an intransitive clause is sometimes marked in the same way as the agent of a transitive clause, and sometimes marked in the same way as the patient of a transitive clause. In Baniwa alignment is realized through verbal agreement, namely prefixes and enclitics.

Prefixes are used to mark:

- Active intransitive subjects (S_a)
- Agents of transitive clauses (A)
- Possessors
- Arguments of adpositions

Enclitics are used to mark:

- Stative intransitive subjects (S₀)
- Patients of transitive clauses (O)

| | Prefixes | | Enclitics | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | singular | plural | singular | plural |
| First person | <i>nu-</i> | <i>wa-</i> | <i>-hnua</i> | <i>-hwa</i> |
| Second person | <i>pi-</i> | <i>i-</i> | <i>-phia</i> | <i>-ihia</i> |
| Third person Nonfeminine | <i>ri-</i> | <i>na-</i> | <i>-ni/ -hria</i> | <i>-hna</i> |
| Third person Feminine | <i>zu-</i> | | | |
| Impersonal | <i>pa-</i> | | <i>-pha</i> | |

The differences between active and stative intransitive clauses can be illustrated below:

- Transitive: *ri-kapa-ni* 'He sees him/it'
- Active Intransitive: *ri-emhani* 'He walks'
- Stative Intransitive: *hape-ka-ni* 'He is cold'

Noun Classification System

Baniwa has an interesting system of noun classification that combines a gender system with a noun classifier system.^[8] Baniwa has two genders: feminine and nonfeminine. Feminine gender agreement is used to refer to female referents, whilst nonfeminine gender agreement is used for all other referents. The two genders are only distinguished in third person singular. Aihkenvald (2007) considers the bipartite gender system to be inherited from Proto-Arawak.^[8]

In addition to gender, Baniwa also has 46 classifiers. Classifiers are used in three main contexts:^[8]

- As a derivational suffix on nouns, e.g. *tɕipa ra-api* (metal.object-CL.hollow) 'pan'
- With numerals, e.g. *apa-api mawapi* (one-CL.hollow blowgun+CL.long.thin) 'one blow gun'
- With adjectives, e.g. *tɕipa ra-api maka-api* (metal.object-CL.hollow big-CL.hollow) 'big pan'

Aihkenvald (2007) divides Baniwa classifiers into four different classes. One set of classifiers is used for humans, animate beings and body parts. Another set of classifiers specify the shape, consistency, quantification or specificity of the noun. Two more classes can be distinguished. One is only used with numerals and the other is only used with adjectives.^[8]

Classifiers for Humans and animate beings:^[8]

| Classifier | Usage | Example |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>-ita</i> | for animate males and body parts | <i>apa-ita peda ria</i> 'one old man' |
| <i>-hipa</i> | for human males only | <i>aphepa nawiki</i> 'one man' |
| <i>-ma</i> | for female referents | <i>apa-ma ina zu</i> 'one woman' |

Classifiers according to shape, consistency, quantification and specificity:^[8]

| Classifier | Usage | Example |
|------------|---|--|
| -da | round objects, natural phenomena and generic classifier | <i>hipada</i> 'stone' |
| -apa | flying animate, semioval objects | <i>kepi:zeni</i> 'bird' |
| -kwa | flat, round, extended objects | <i>kaida</i> 'beach' |
| -kha | curvilinear objects | <i>a:pi</i> 'snake' |
| -na | vertical, standing objects | <i>haiku</i> 'tree' |
| -∅ | hollow, small objects | <i>a:ta</i> 'cup' |
| -maka | stretchable, extended objects | <i>tšaia</i> 'skirt' |
| -ahna | liquids | <i>u:ni</i> 'water' |
| -ima | sides | <i>apema nu-kapi makema ri</i> 'one big side of my hand' |
| -pa | boxes, parcels | <i>apa-pa itsa maka-pa ri</i> 'one big box of fishing hooks' |
| -wana | thin slice | <i>apa-wana kuphe maka-wane</i> 'a big thin slice of fish' |
| -wata | bundle for carrying | <i>apa-wata pa rana maka-wate</i> 'a big bundle of bananas' |
| -∅ | canoes | <i>i:ta</i> 'canoe' |
| -pawa | rivers | <i>u:ni</i> 'river' |
| -fa | excrement | <i>i fa</i> 'excrement' |
| -ya | skins | <i>dzawiya</i> 'jaguar skin' |

Negation

There are two main strategies for negation in the Kurripako-Baniwa varieties:^[4]

- Independent negative markers
- The privative derivational prefix *ma-*

Different varieties have different negative markers. This is so prominent that speakers identify Kurripako dialects according to the words for 'yes' and 'no'.^[4]

| Dialect | Spoken in | Yes | No |
|------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Aha-Khuri | Colombia, Venezuela & Brazil | <i>Aha</i> | <i>Khuri</i> |
| Ehe-Khenim | Venezuela | <i>Ehe</i> | <i>Khenim</i> |
| Oho-Karo | Colombia & Brazil | <i>Oho</i> | <i>Karo</i> |
| Oho-Ñame | Colombia & Brazil | <i>Oho</i> | <i>Ñame</i> |

The independent negative markers come before the verb. They are used as clausal negators in declarative and interrogative sentences. They are also used to link clauses.^[4]

The privative suffix is attached to nouns to derive a verb which means 'lacking' the noun from which it was derived. The opposite of the privative prefix is the attributive prefix *ka-*. This derives a verb which means 'having' the noun from which it was derived.^[4] The difference can be illustrated below:

- Noun: *iipe* 'meat'
- Privative: ***ma-iipe*** > *meepe* 'be thin' (lit. lack meat)
- Attributive: ***ka-iipe*** > *keepe* 'be fat' (lit. have meat)

The prefix is used in combination with the restrictive suffix *-tsa* to form negative imperatives, e.g. ***ma-ihnia-tsa*** 'don't eat!'. A privative prefix is also reconstructed in Proto-Arawak privative as **ma-*.^[9]

Word Order

Granadillo (2014) considers Kurripako a VOS language.^[4]

Vocabulary

Verbs^[10]

| Baniwa | English |
|--------|----------|
| Kapa | To See |
| Za | To Drink |
| Hima | To Hear |
| Cami | To Die |
| Nu | To Come |

Further reading

- Gonçalves, Artur Garcia. 2018. *Para uma dialetologia baniwa-koripako do rio Içana*. M.A. dissertation, Universidade de Brasília.

References

1. Baniwa (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/bwi/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Curripako (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/kpc/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Baniwa-Curripaco" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bani1259>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y.; Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. (2014-01-01). *Negation in Tariana: A North Arawak Perspective in the Light of Areal Diffusion* (http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/books/b9789004257023_006). doi:10.1163/9789004257023_006 (https://doi.org/10.1163%2F9789004257023_006).
4. Granadillo, Tania; Granadillo, Tania (2014-01-01). *On Negation in Kurripako Ehe-Khenim* (http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/books/b9789004257023_005). doi:10.1163/9789004257023_005 (https://doi.org/10.1163%2F9789004257023_005).
5. Ramirez, Henri (2019). *Enciclopédia das línguas arawak: acrescida de seis novas línguas e dois bancos de dados* (<http://www.etnolinguistica.org/arawak>). (in press)

6. de Souza, Erick Marcelo Lima (2012). *Estudo Fonológico da Língua Baniwa-Kuripako* (http://etnolinguistica.wdfiles.com/local--files/tese%3Asouza-2012-baniwa/souza_2012_baniwa.pdf) [*Phonological Analysis of the Baniwa-Kuripako language*] (PDF) (Master's thesis) (in Portuguese). University of Campinas.
7. Aikhenvald, "Arawak", in Dixon & Aikhenvald, eds., *The Amazonian Languages*, 1999.
8. Aikhenvald, Alexandra (2007). "Classifiers in Multiple Environments: Baniwa of Içana/Kurripako—A North Arawak Perspective on JSTOR". *International Journal of American Linguistics*. **73** (4): 475. doi:10.1086/523774 (<https://doi.org/10.1086%2F523774>).
9. Michael, Lev; Granadillo, Tania; Granadillo, Lev Michael|Tania (2014-01-01). *Negation in Arawak Languages* » *Brill Online* (<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/books/9789004257023>). doi:10.1163/9789004257023 (<https://doi.org/10.1163%2F9789004257023>).
10. "The ASJP Database - Wordlist Baniva" (<https://asjp.clld.org/languages/BANIVA>). *asjp.clld.org*. Retrieved 2019-06-02.

External links

- [Baniva del Guainia Language \(http://www.native-languages.org/baniva.htm\)](http://www.native-languages.org/baniva.htm)
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karu_language&oldid=965707439"

This page was last edited on 2 July 2020, at 23:10 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.